

Message Text

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ACTION OES-07

INFO OCT-01 ARA-10 EUR-12 EA-07 ISO-00 FEA-01 ACDA-07
AGRE-00 AID-05 CEA-01 CEQ-01 CG-00 CIAE-00 EPG-02
COME-00 DLOS-09 DODE-00 DOTE-00 EB-07 EPA-01
ERDA-05 FMC-01 TRSE-00 H-01 INR-07 INT-05 IO-13
JUSE-00 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 NSF-01 OMB-01 PA-01
PM-04 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 /142 W
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P R 081625Z JUN 77
FM AMEMBASSY PARAMARIBO
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 3423
INFO AMEMBASSY BRASILIA
AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS
AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMEMBASSY SEOUL
AMEMBASSY TOKYO
AMEMBASSY GEORGETOWN
AMCONSUL MARTINIQUE

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BRUSSELS FOR USEEC

EO 11652: NA
TAGS: EEC, EFIS, PLOS, FR, NS, FG
SUBJ: US FISHERY OFF FRENCH GUIANA

REF : PARIS 16722

1. EMBASSY PARAMARIBO BELIEVES THAT FRENCH DEMARCHE OUTLINED
REFTEL IS AN UNWARRANTED INTERFERENCE IN MATTERS CONCERNING
ONLY THE US GOVERNMENT AND SHOULD BE REJECTED OUT OF HAND.
IT IS A TRANSPARENT ATTEMPT TO MISUSE THE INTERNATIONAL FISH-
ERIES AGREEMENTS UNDER DISCUSSION TO GIVE COMMERCIAL PREFERENCE
TO SHORE BUSINESSES IN FRENCH GUIANA AND INCIDENTALLY TO ONE
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AMERICAN COMPANY OVER OTHERS.

2. AS DEPT POINTED OUT IN A NUMBER OF MESSAGES, THERE IS NO
EVIDENCE THAT ANY LIMITATION ON SHRIMP FISHING OFF FRENCH
GUIANA IS JUSTIFIED BY CONSERVATION PRINCIPLES. ON THE CON-
TRARY, THE ONLY SENSIBLE MEANS OF MANAGING THIS FISHERY IN THE
LONG RUN WOULD BE COOPERATIVE ARRANGEMENTS AMONG BRAZIL,

FRANCE, SURINAM, GUYANA, AND PERHAPS OTHER COUNTRIES TO MANAGE THE STOCK AS A SINGLE MIGRATING RESOURCE. WHATEVER SHRIMP ARE SAVED FROM BEING CAUGHT OFF FRENCH GUIANA WILL ONLY GET CAUGHT SOMEWHERE ELSE. THE EVIDENCE WOULD SEEM TO INDICATE THAT THE PRIMARY PURPOSE OF THE FRENCH GOVERNMENT IS NOT TO PROTECT AND CONSERVE THE SHRIMP STOCK BUT RATHER TO GIVE AN ADVANTAGE TO SHORE FACILITIES (WHICH PROVIDE FUEL, PROVISIONS AND REPAIRS FOR SHIPS) AND PROCESSING PLANTS (WHICH SORT, PACK AND FREEZE THE SHRIMP FOR DIRECT EXPORT TO US AND OTHER MARKETS) IN FRENCH GUIANA OVER THOSE IN SURINAM OR ELSEWHERE WHICH THOSE FACILITIES COULD NOT ATTAIN ON A COMMERCIAL BASIS BECAUSE THEY ARE MORE EXPENSIVE OR LESS EFFICIENT.

3. SEEN IN THIS LIGHT, THE ENTIRE FRENCH OPERATION OF DECLARING A 200 MILE ZONE OFF FRENCH GUIANA, RESTRICTING THE SHRIMP CATCH, REQUIRING LICENSING OF INDIVIDUAL SHIPS AND THEN SETTING THE NUMBER OF SUCH SHIPS RATHER LOW MAY BE ONLY PART OF AN ATTEMPT TO BOLSTER THE FRENCH GUIANA ECONOMY BY UNDERCUTTING SHORE FACILITIES AND PROCESSING PLANTS ELSEWHERE, INCLUDING THE MAJOR CASTLE AND COOKE OPERATION IN SURINAM, AND IN EFFECT PUTTING PRESSURE ON THEM TO MOVE TO CAYENNE OR LAND AT LEAST PART OF THEIR CATCH THERE. IF THE US MUST FINALLY ACQUIESCE IN THE LIMITATION AND LICENSING REQUIREMENT BECAUSE OF OUR OVERALL POSITION ON FISHING IN OTHER PEOPLE'S WATERS, THEN AT LEAST, IN OUR OPINION, THE QUESTION OF WHICH US NATIONALS AND SHIPS SHOULD RECEIVE THE LICENSES OUGHT TO BE A MATTER EXCLUSIVELY FOR US CONCERN.

4. IF, UNDER FRENCH PRESSURE, THE USG DID GIVE "FIRST CON-
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SIDERATION" IN ISSUING LICENSES TO A PARTICULAR FIRM NAMED BY FRANCE, WHOSE SHIPS WERE BASED IN FRENCH GUIANA, THEN WE WOULD EXPECT THERE WOULD BE AN ADVERSE REACTION FROM SURINAM AND FROM THE AMERICAN FIRM DEALING HERE.

5. IF THE DESIRE OF THE FRENCH IS TO GIVE LEGITIMATE ENCOURAGEMENT TO (ADMITTEDLY BADLY NEEDED) ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT IN FRENCH GUIANA, THEN IT SEEMS TO US THAT A MORE PROPER COURSE OF ACTION WOULD BE TO EXEMPT ALL SHIPS, OF WHATEVER FLAG, BASED IN AND DELIVERING THEIR CATCH TO FRENCH GUIANA FROM THE FOREIGN LICENSING REQUIREMENTS, TREAT THEM ON THE SAME BASIS AS FRENCH NATIONAL SHIPS, AND TREAT THE INTERNATIONAL LICENSING REQUIREMENT AS A SEPARATE MATTER.
ZURHELLEN

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Sent Date: 08-Jun-1977 12:00:00 am
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Decaption Note:
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Disposition Approved on Date:
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Disposition Event:
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